A Thesis
on
Dystocia

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The dangers involving life during parturition are numerous.
The treatment of the dangers is the work the Accoucheur has to perform. A most important work indeed, and one of the greatest moment. There is no end to the difficulties he will have to encounter.
No parturition however favorably its progression is without its dangers, and we know not the moment when they may appear. How frequently is death even a visitor at the accouchement.
The Accoucheur must be on the alert for all the trouble that may arise, meeting them with his most potent medicines.
"A stitch in time" says an old

Proverb "saves nine." If we treat promptly the first indications of the coming danger, we will avert serious results.
We find classed under Dystocia many troubles. To speak of all of them is not my intention - they are described in our Obstetrical Works - but to indicate the cause of these disorders, and to seek the curative power.
Happily the Homoeopathician possesses this latter power.
He turneth evil to good; weeping to rejoicing.
The deformities and malformations existing in the pelvis, and also in the foetus, are among the most effectual barriers to a spontaneous labor that can

exist. A deformity may be so great as to make it impossible for the child to be born alive; or only so by the timely help of mechanical aid, here our medicines will avail us nothing.
Are our efforts to free the child by the use of the forceps unavailing, there is nothing left for us to do but proceed to its destruction by Craniotomy, or risking the life of parent by the Caesarean Section.
If we know during the period of gestation, that it is impossible through some pelvic deformity for a foetus at full term to be born, we should induce a premature labor, say at the seventh or the eighth month.

or cause an abortion earlier, so to save the female from the terrible sufferings she would otherwise have.
As for the treatment of deformed pelves, little can be done. If we are cognizant of the existing trouble at an early age, it is by no means impossible to effect a cure, but not at mature years. A malformed pelvis may be the result of an accident, but oftener it arises from some disordered state of the system during the period of life before puberty. A faulty state of the system fails to develop the pelvis properly, were this state rightly treated the pelvic trouble would be removed

A difficult and dangerous parturition, may have its origin in disordered state of the body existing in the female, which reacts upon the uterus causing the most serious results in that organ, as spasmodic contractility, rigidity, over exerted action, inertia &c. In the efforts to expell its contents there is a latent power called into action in the uterus, which is a spinal reflex, nervi motor, or organic contractility - as we find it called. The female becomes aware of this action by pains which she feels her labor pains. In a healthy normal parturition, these pains or contractions of the uterus should be just

sufficient to expell the foetus, and its appendages, and causing a return to the original state without any serious disorders. Happy would it be were this always the case. Were it so, I would not have this theme to write upon, nor would there be any need for the skilled Accoucheur. But I have my theme and the Accoucheur, still has his blood curdled by the sights he is often compelled to witness.

Inertia, and the too powerful action of the uterus often occurs. The life of the woman is jeopardised by the complete cessation of uterine action, as it is also by the too powerful action.

We need to fear either of these two states, for from them arise puerperal hemorrhage, puerperal convulsions, rupture of the uterus, also paralysis, rigidity, and quite a catagory of serious complications. Enough evil classed in a few lines, to frighten all the women in Christendom from marriage.
All these troubles must have an origin, and as I have said they have it from some disordered state in the system of the female, which reacts upon the uterus during labor. What is to hinder us from going deeper and seeking the very origin of trouble.
During her parturition the

female is reaping what she has sown. Has her life been given to fashionable dissipation, to operas, balls, tight lacing and so on? If so, we will find no difficulty in imagining her accouchement. We attend it with fear and trembling. But if her life have been useful, healthy, and the whole tone of her system undis=turbed, her accouchement will be one of joy, and not of sorrow.

It is clearly impossible for a worn out constitution to supply the power necessary to a healthy and spontaneous labor, as impossible as for the dumb to speak, or the blind to see. The effects of the two states I

have mentioned, are found materially to influence the position of the foetus in the womb, as also its general condition.
The obstructions to a spontaneous labor, having their origin in the foetus, are such as the Monstrosities which greet our eyes in every Anatomical Museum,
Tumors of the foetus, hydrocephalus, its different positions within the uterus &c.
Our aim, is to reach the cause of these disorders, and to find them we must begin at the beginning.
The close connection of the child in utero to the parent-
I do not mean the material placental connection - but the

immortal the soul - may lead us to account for that which we call, "The freaks of Nature" viz monstrosities. All the impressions which the parent receives, are received by the being within her wombs. If they are all impressions of a good and healthy character, we will find them engrafted on the child after birth, or vice versa. Any very sudden and disagreeable spectacle to the mother, - she who ~~would~~ is to be a mother - during gestation, may by its strong nervous action - there existing some dyscrasy at the same time in the system - cause abnormalities in the foetus. A lady may have witnessed

an accident, the nervous impression was strong and must vent its self somewhere, what more delicate and susceptiable than the foetus? Two headed foetuses, foetuses devoid of brain, those with but a single leg or arm, are often the consiquences of these strong nervous impressions. The most generae and the really normal position of the foetus in the uterus, is the left accipito iliac anterior. All the obligue presentations or those of the breech, face, shoulder &c are caused by an antagonistic force to, and stronger than nature. This force may have its full

sway in her who is pregnant, if her system be low enough to receive ~~them~~ it.

The freshest and best blood direct from the maternal heart is the source from which the life of the foetus is sustained, on which it shall wax and grow fat. Shall the nourishment be of the best or not? This depends upon the parent herself. "It is as impossible for a corrupt tree to bear good fruit, as it is for a good tree to bear corrupt fruit".

In the preceding pages, I have given quite a list of the complications often attendant on parturition. The preventive treatment of which is not so

difficult, but to meet them during labor is a far more serious task.

Rupture of the uterus, one of the most terrible conditions, we will occasionally be so unfortunate as to meet with. Should we meet with such a case, we must act quickly; there is no time for delay. To apply the forceps and deliver, or turn and so deliver, should be done as speedy as possible. Is delivery impossible and the child still alive, the Caesarean operation should be preformed, and we may be able to save both mother and child, otherwise it is fatal to both.

The mortality in rupture is

very great, the woman may not survive a few seconds.
With our Homoeopathic remedies, we can work wonders here as in all things else - allaying inflammation, and causing a quick return to health -
Puerperal hemorrhage - a very serious trouble - we must often treat. Hemorrhage is indeed a very serious complication to gestation and parturition.
By proper quiet, diet and care, and with our ever ready medicines, we expect to control the bleeding. The cause with the condition we find our patient will indicate what medicine, Acon - Opi - Bell. Bry - Ipe. Nux - Cro. Pul. Phs. and a multitude more medicines, we

must choose from - as the symptoms indicate.
In placenta praevia, we of course cannot expect to stop the bleeding wholly by medicines.
We stop the hemorrhage here, by puncturing the membranes through the placenta; so bringing on labor, and have the child born passing through the center of the placenta.
Puerperal convulsions are terrible indeed to meet with, but with Hyos. Vir. Bell. Stra, and any other indicated medicine, we will control them.
Any remedy, Homoeopathic to the existing trouble, must be administered to our patient.
The obstacles presented by the

factus, must be over come.
I will not go into detail of the obstetrical operations here, in my practice I expect to surmount them.
All our manipulations, must be done with gentleness and great care. Are we too rough in version, we may rupture or paralyze the uterus. Are our surgical operations not done with care, we may lacerate the parts, causing serious inflammation and even death.
In applying forceps, taking care not to catch any thing but the head of fœtus.
With gentleness, and the greatest care, we must conduct all our operations.